Under international law, a refugee is a person who has fled the country of his nationality to avoid persecution or the threat of persecution.

The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees gives a precise definition of the term.

Interestingly, the Convention of the Organization of African Unity extends refugee status to all persons fleeing their country because of an armed conflict [1] or internal disturbances [2].

See Displaced persons [3]; Stateless persons [4]; Non-refoulement [5];
as protected persons

PI, 73 \[8\] and 85/2 \[9\]

in the enemy country

GCIV, 44 \[10\]

DOCUMENTS

Organization of African Unity, Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa \[11\]

Cartagena Declaration on Refugees \[12\]

CASES

ICRC, Iran/Iraq Memoranda \[13\]

ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Kupreskic et al. (Paras. 587-588) \[14\]

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region (Part 1., D.) \[15\]

Canada, Ramirez v. Canada \[16\]

Canada, Sivakumar v. Canada \[17\]
Switzerland, The Niyontese Case (A., 10) [18]

The armed conflict in Syria [19]


Myanmar, Forced Population Movements [21]

ECJ, Aboubacar Diakité v. Commissaire général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides [22]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


**Further readings:**


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/refugees

**Links**

